

Message Text

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22

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 OMB-01 SAM-01 SAB-01

ACDA-05 /082 W

----- 041701

O 040910Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8483

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 1112

DELIVER TO NEA/ARN/DRAPEY AT OPENING OF BUSINESS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: 0900 LEBANON REPORT

1. THERE WERE A NUMBER OF INCIDENTS IN TOWN AND COUNTRYSIDE
YESTERDAY OF MINOR NATURE; INDIVIDUALS SHOT IN THE STREET,
ARMED ROBBERY AND MURDER, CHRISTIANS KILLING EACH OTHER
IN JOUNIEH, MOST OF WHICH HAD FLAVOR OF SETTLEING OLD
SCORES AND GENERALLY LOW LEVEL OF LAW AND ORDER. ZOHER
MOHSEN RETURNED FROM TRIP TO DAMASCUS TO ANNOUNCE
FRANGIE TRIP IMMINENT EITHER TOMORROW OR BY SATURDAY
AT LATEST.

2. FAIR AMOUNT OF SQUABBLING CONTINUES AMONG MOSLEMS OVER
A NUMBER OF PROBLEMS, MOST PARTICULARLY RATION OF DIVIDING
SEATS IN NEW PARLIAMENT. SUNNIS ARE SAID TO BE OPPOSING
SHI'ITE DEMANDS FOR EQUAL REPRESENTATION, WHILE DRUZE HAVE
FOR SOME TIME FELT THEY WERE GETTING THE LEAST OUT OF ALL
THIS. JUMBLATT HAS TOLD PRESS HE IS NO LONGER PUSHING AT PRESENT
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FOR PRINCIPLE OF PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION IN

PARLIAMENT BUT WILL SETTLE FOR DECONFESSIONALIZATION OF THE THREE PRESIDENCIES (I.E. OF THE REPUBLIC, OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND OF THE PARLIAMENT). IDEA HE HAS RETURNED TO LAST COUPLE OF DAYS WOULD BE THAT CHRISTIAN PRESIDENT NEED NOT BE A MARONITE BUT COULD BE SOMEONE SUCH AS GREEK ORTHODOX AND BY SAME TOKEN OTHER TWO PRESIDENTS COULD BE MOSLEMS BUT NOT NECESSARILY ONE SUNNI AND ONE SHIA. JUMBLATT MAKES NO BONES ABOUT HIS OWN AMBITIONS TO FILL ONE OF THOSE POSITIONS, MOST LIKELY THAT OF PRIME MINISTER (PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS), WHICH EVERYBODY EXPECTS WILL HAVE CONSIDERABLY GREATER POWERS IN FUTURE THAN IN THE PAST.

3. PHALANGE LEADER GEMAYEL HAS COME OUT WITH ANOTHER STATEMENT INSISTING REESTABLISHMENT OF SECURITY AND "RETURN OF NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY" MUST PRECEDE ANY POLITICAL SOLUTION. THIS EMPHASIZES RECENT TENDENCY ON CHRISTIAN AS ON MOSLEM SIDE OF INDIVIDUAL LEADERS TO VIE FOR POPULAR SUPPORT. THIS IS A NATURAL TENDENCY IN THE LEBANON AND ONE WHICH BODES TROUBLE FOR FUTURE IMPLEMENTATION OF ANY AGREEMENT, BUT AT THE MOMENT APPEARS RELATIVELY MUTED AND PROBABLY CAN BE CONTAINED.

4. JOYFUL NOTE: IT HAS JUST BEEN ANNOUNCED THAT VOLUNTEERS WILL HELP SORT ESTIMATED FIFTEEN MILLION PIECES OF MAIL PILED UP AT CENTRAL POST OFFICE.
LAMBRAKIS

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NNN

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